

SECRET

14 November 1975

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Soviet Statements About U.S. Reconnaissance Capabilities

1. A variety of files containing Soviet statements about U.S. photographic reconnaissance have been reviewed. Since the early 1960's there have been numerous allusions in Soviet publications to U.S. reconnaissance satellites. The following recent references provided specific information on the resolution capability of U.S. systems. These unclassified publications generally indicate their sources to be western publications.

Cosmonautics and Astronautics, May 1972:

"In conjunction with long-focus lenses the low altitudes of perigee make it possible to get pictures with a resolution of 1.8 - 5.5 meters (and according to some sources even down to 0.3 meters)."

In Red Banner (Krasnaya Zvezda) of 26 October 1972, two Soviet field grade engineer officers refer to a U.S. reconnaissance capability of 1 meter, or 39-inch resolution.

In Antimissile and Space Defense Weapons, a book by Ivan Ivanovich Anureyev, April 1971:

"But in using cameras with a focal length of around 3 meters and high-quality film it was possible, from an altitude of 500 kilometers, to detect objects with linear dimensions of around 1 meter on the earth."

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MEMORANDUM FOR: DDI

Mr. Proctor:

Our review was exhausting but not exhaustive. I understand that the NRO is also trying to dig up information on this subject, apparently their interest came from the same statement (at EXCOM) that triggered the DCI's question.

As you can see, we found one Soviet statement (first item) that indicated a US capability of about one foot.

Dick Kerr

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File with
my memo on
the fact of
it*

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